

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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R 031900Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7151

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1568

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, UR

SUBJ: ANNOUNCEMENT OF BREZHNEV VISIT

REF: NEW DELHI 8869 AND NEW DELHI 9693

1. OCTOBER 3 DELHI PRESS GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE BUT NO SPECIAL BALLYHOO TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S ANNOUNCEMENT THE DAY BEFORE THAT BREZHNEV "WILL MAKE A FRIENDLY OFFICIAL VISIT TO INDIA IN THE SECOND PART OF NOVEMBER THIS YEAR AT THE INVITATION OF PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI".

2. THE ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS A BUILDUP THAT HAS INCLUDED BREZHNEV'S LAUDATORY REMARKS ON INDIA AT TASHKENT, ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TWO MILLION TON GRAIN LOAN TO INDIA, AND THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATIONS TONE FOR THE SOVIET-AIDED MATHURA REFINERY. THESE HAVE RECEIVED FAVORABLE PLAYBACK HERE, SETTING AN UPBEAT TONE

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FOR BREZHNEV'S TRIP. COMMENTING ON THE GRAIN DEAL AND THE VISIT,

THE TIMES OF INDIA SAID BREZHNEV COULD NOT HAVE SELECTED A BETTER TIME TO VISIT THIS COUNTRY. AT MATHURA, MRS. GANDHI SAID THE GRAIN LOAN HAD SHOWN HOW GENUINE THE SOVIET'S FRIENDSHIP WITH INDIA IS; THE SOVIET UNION IS A FRIEND BUT IT HAD NEVER SUGGESTED TO INDIA WHAT TO DO OR WHAT NOT TO DO IN ANY SITUATION.

3. IN FACT, THE SOVIET UNION HASN'T "DONE MUCH" FOR INDIA LATELY AND THE GRAIN DEAL AS WELL AS THE NICE WORDS WILL HELP TO BURNISH THE SOVIET IMAGE IN ANTICIPATION OF THE BREZHNEV TRIP;
SCHNEIDER

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